



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC HEARING
(AMENDMENTS TO THE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ORDINANCE)
MINUTES**

Monday, JUNE 18, 2012 5:30 pm City Hall

Chairwoman Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Michael George 126 Academy Street, My wife and I bought our house in 1973 and shortly thereafter, a neighbor at 130 Academy became interested in becoming an historic. We canvassed the neighborhood and with over 90% of the support of the neighborhood and our 2 Council members, Tom Aposporus and Colette LaFuente, we became an historic district. I was the first representative to the commission from Academy Street and 2nd chairperson. We have become encouraged by other districts becoming historic districts. I would like to speak in favor of the work that is being done by the commission in concert with the staff, mayor and council. I urge you to vote positively for the change to this ordinance. It gives us an opportunity to become a C L G.

Virginia Hancock 26 Loockerman Avenue I speak on behalf of the Springside Landscape Restoration National Historic Landmark. I am Vice President of that group. I would like to read from the proposed historic preservation **ordinance the purpose.....**I would like to commend the administration and council for a wonderful document that has been produced. I have great hope that you will vote positively.

Kevin Gallagher 9 Dwight Street I am the vice chair of the historic preservation commission. I was the person who led the petition drive for the creation of the Dwight Street/Hooker Avenue Historic District. I want to commend the mayor and the elected officials on your work on this proposed historic district ordinance. There have been delays in getting to this point, particularly in adhering to the model proposed by the State Office of Historic Preservation. I am happy to say that this latest draft appears to be in compliance with what they have asked for and should be accepted by them. That is my sincere hope. The members of the Historic District Commission have tried to work very

closely with the members of the Common Council, the Mayor's office, Corporation Counsel's office on this issue for the past several years. There are currently more than 60 communities across the state that have approved ordinances based on the state's model. I am very hopeful that Poughkeepsie will be joining them shortly. The funding from the CLG status could be used for a variety of preservation efforts, including surveys of historic properties, educational programs, training for municipal officials and more. One example of education effort is this FAQ pamphlet that is available through the building department.....There have been a lot of discussions about economic hardships. In the seven years that I have been on the commission, we have worked very hard with individual applicants to mitigate those issues by suggesting that they get different estimates and other contractors. We have suggested that homeowners use faux slate products. This ordinance affects only 115 properties. I sincerely hope that this ordinance be approved so we can all move forward.

Eilean Hayten 10 Gaskin Road Poughkeepsie is more than a bridge, a waterfront, an old house but is a marvelous mix of neighborhoods and people that together have created our home. As former director of Dutchess County Historical Society, I was frequently asked questions by homeowners and developers about the history of structures and properties. The passage of this proposed ordinance recognizes the importance of Poughkeepsie's 325 year history and heritage. The law will be a blueprint for the ongoing development of initiatives that will assist the social, economic, aesthetic, and historic components present throughout the City. The proposed legislation is to be welcomed. I urge the council to support this legislation.

Holly Wahlberg 35 Garfield Place, A good preservation law has to do two things and to do them equally well. First, the law has to protect historic buildings. Secondly, it has to protect the rights of those who own the historic building. The best law accomplishes both objectives creating balance and fairness. I think this proposed law accomplishes that. Thank you to all who worked on this ordinance.

Jeremy Doxsee 21 Rosiland Road I here in support of the historic ordinance. I think about the communities that I enjoy and admire most in the Hudson Valley and they all have one thing in common is the dedication to safeguarding cultural, historic and architectural resources. I think it is really important that Poughkeepsie get behind this ordinance. It is very heartening to see this put together in a bi-partisan fashion. I commend the administration and council for brining this forward. I commend the Historic Commission for putting hard work in. Poughkeepsie has tremendous potential with beautiful residential neighborhoods, beautiful downtown. I would like to see those resources preserved and protected. I encourage you to support the ordinance.

Mayor Jack Economou 23 Garfield Place The goal of this proposed change seems to be owner friendly to the people in the City of Poughkeepsie. I suggest that it would be even more owner friendly if there were a representative from each historic district . I think our 3 historic districts are largely one street districts. A resident of those streets could relate more closely to the problems of homeowners. That person could give the commission insight as to what the concerns of the homeowner may be and at the same

time serve to enlighten the commission. I would suggest that you keep the language of the present ordinance and have each historic district be represented. The second goal of this legislation seems to be to comply with the state requirement. Recently, the Town of Poughkeepsie has received \$19,500. The Town & Village of New Paltz each received \$5,000. Town of Cold Spring received \$12,100. Most of this money is to make inventory of buildings in these municipalities that might appropriately be designated as historic properties. I think Poughkeepsie should apply for this for the purpose of determining which buildings might be registered.

Nives Cappelli, she has lived in the City of Poughkeepsie since 2004.

Doug Nobiletti 145 Academy Street I am the founding member of Academy Street Historic Preservation and Academy Street Area Partnership. Academy Street is the most heavily traveled and has many houses that are in various states of dereliction and we formed to try and help our street and surrounding neighborhoods. We are excited to see this ordinance has been fine toothed combed to be reviewed by administration, council and members of the historic district and it meets the requirements for SHPO and CLG. The commission has been very proactive. The commission has found financially viable solutions.

David Schneck 19 Garfield Place I have been considered to be one of the strongest opponents of the historic commission. I am actually in favor of this ordinance. I have been a resident for 15 years. I have raised 5 kids and part has been as a single parent. I know what financial hardship is. I have benefited greatly from government programs & states tax credits. I have had a lot negative experiences with the commission over the years. The negative experiences are due to the enforcement and use of regulations by people who may not have had the best interest of the community at hand. So when we establish a commission and ordinance, we need to make sure the people on that commission have an understanding we are looking to improve the situation for everyone involved: the community, the tourists as well as the individual homeowners who are trying to make a go of it and just put food on the table. The most significant problem in the past is the inconsistent application of the regulations that are in place. The new ordinance directly benefits the community at large but it is limited to how it benefits the individual. If we could address that somehow it would be good. The new ordinance restricts the residential presence on that commission to just one. It removes that members serve without compensation. The inaction provision has been removed.

Leslie Catlett 23 Underhill Avenue, This council has the opportunity for a dramatic paradigm shift. I am so proud to be a member of the City of Poughkeepsie. Its history is intoxicating. To have the historical depth of this city unprotected was disheartening to me. This ordinance is the first step toward innovation and historical pride. I have a young family and I have a community that is rich in historic depth and has an anchor that my children can feel like they belong to an important place. Please support this ordinance.

John Fischer 149 Academy Street (Chair- Historic Preservation Commission) I would like to thank the Common Council, City Mayor, Corporation Counsel and City Staff for working together to new historic ordinance for the City of Poughkeepsie. After nearly 40 years under the current ordinance, the time has come to new a new ordinance. This newly proposed ordinance strikes a balance between preservation and property rights. Working off SHPO model ordinance, the City has added an appeals process that is lacking in our current ordinance and gives Common Council the final say which is the same as our current ordinance. Working off SHPO is the basis for many surrounding communities. By qualifying as a certified local government, the City will be able to apply for historic preservation grants which could be used for commission training, surveys, public workshops, demonstration projects, design guidelines and publications. This would transform the historic commission into a more helpful resource for property owners. The properties that are protected by the historic preservation ordinance have a better chance of surviving. The owners know that they have something special. The City of Poughkeepsie has a tax exemption for historical property owners. This ordinance will protect values. We are caretakers and preserving these homes for the next generation.

Arnold Serotsky 188 South Grand Avenue I am here to speak in favor of the approval of the ordinance that is before the Common Council. I am not the expert. You have heard from people who live in the historic district. My wife and I were looking for a place to live about 9 years ago. We came upon Poughkeepsie. We became co-chairs for the Historical Society Home Tours in the City of Poughkeepsie and become Clerk of the Works for Christ Episcopal Church. We are here to support this ordinance because of the potential that it holds for the City. What became clear to us, historic preservation is a cash crop for this city's tourism. I believe that preserving the historic buildings is just as important as the enhancing the waterfront, the bridge and having great restaurants. Please support this historic preservation ordinance.

Roger Christenfeld, 103 S. Hamilton Street, one of the 115 historic buildings. I am a caretaker of this building which is much older than me. Living in it is not easy. People who buy these buildings do not buy them to cover them up with plastic. They buy them to spend hours searching for the last living Italian artisan who does plaster work. It adds dimension to your life as well as the City. I am here to thank the members of the Council and Executive branch for a lot of hard work and working together. Passing this historic preservation ordinance will be a historic moment.

Terri Horner, 81 S. Hamilton Street, also a landmark property. Although we are pleased that we have come to this point, we don't have a Walt Whitman legacy, we do have a ghost. I want to echo Mr. Christenfeld statements. I have noted some technical inconsistencies that I can submit to Asst. Corporation Counsel Brady.

Constantine Kazolias, 47 Noxon Street, the oldest building on Noxon Street. I worked as a construction inspector for the City of Poughkeepsie. There were grants for historic preservations. Historic preservation should have taken place a long time ago.

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Ken Stickle, 118 Catharine Street, we need the historical commission in Poughkeepsie. You do need synthetic products for repair historic properties. The City should have consulted with different contractors about alternate products.

Michael Young 20 Barclay Street, I live in a property that was built in 1890. It is not registered nationally or locally. I have been slowly but surely extracting it's boarding house roots in order to get it registered. I have one concern is that there is only one person that is a resident in an historic district. I would like to suggest that additional person be someone that live in landmark house. I would like to see more residents of the City. I would also like to suggest that there is a full auditing of the properties from 1979. I hope that you will vote for this historic ordinance.

Dated: January 2, 2013

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain
Deanne L. Flynn